



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Statement on Department of Defense Expansion into Intelligence Collection**

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Silvestre Reyes (D-TX), Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, issued the following statement today:

"In today's papers there are articles that refer to an expanded intelligence collection effort by the Department of Defense. Any expansion by the Department into intelligence collection, particularly on U.S. soil, is something our Committee will thoroughly review.

"Last year, many of us in Congress pressed for and obtained changes to the Patriot Act to allow the recipients of National Security Letters to contact an attorney.

"In addition, I co-sponsored Democratic-initiated legislation in the 109th Congress to require that officials obtain court approval before issuing National Security Letters. That legislation deserves careful consideration in the new Congress.

"The House Intelligence Committee is on record as expressing concern with the activities of the Counterintelligence Field Activity and demanding to review the Inspector General report on that office.

"We want our intelligence professionals to have strong tools that will enable them to interrupt the planning process of our enemies and to stop attacks against our country. But in doing so, we also want those tools to comply fully with the law and the Constitution."